

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 02803 142120Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /104 W
-----107767 150631Z /64

R 141859Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3843
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 02803

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, OAU, CU, SP
SUBJECT: CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO BACK SPAIN ON CANARIES
DURING AFRICAN TRIP

REF: MADRID 2347 NOTAL

1. DURING A BRIEF STOP-OVER IN MADRID MARCH 10 EN ROUTE
TO ETHIOPIA AND OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES (UNNAMED, BUT
REPORTED TO INCLUDE MOZAMBIQUE), CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER
MALMIERCA UNDERTOOK TO BACK THE SPANISHNESS OF THE CANARY
ISLANDS IN THE COURSE OF HIS TRIP, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY
THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S SUBDIRECTOR GENERAL FOR IBERO-
AMERICA (BERMEJO). THE UNDERTAKING (BERMEJO WAS UNCERTAIN
WHETHER MALMIERCA HAD VOLUNTEERED OR HAD BEEN ASKED) CAME
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DURING THE THREE-HOUR CONVERSATION MALMIERCA HAD WITH HIS
SPANISH COUNTERPART BEFORE CONTINUING ON HIS TRIP THE
SAME DAY.
2. MALMIERCA'S PRESENCE HERE WAS STRICTLY A FUNCTION OF
HAVANA'S CONTINUING SHORTAGE OF INTERNATIONAL AIR LINKS,
BERMEJO TOLD US, AND IN FACT CUBAN OFFICIALS ROUTINELY
PASS THROUGH MADRID IN THE COURSE OF THEIR INTERNATIONAL

TRAVELS. THE MFA WAS QUICK TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S STOP-OVER HERE, HE ADDED, POINTING OUT THAT "WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT," CUBA DOES HAVE INFLUENCE WITH SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

3. WHILE FONMIN OREJA HAD STILL NOT TOLD HIS SUBORDINATES EVERYTHING THE TWO MEN HAD DISCUSSED DURING THEIR PRIVATE MEETING, BERMEJO SAID, HE HIMSELF ASSUMED THAT NOTHING SIGNIFICANT ON THE BILATERAL PLANE HAD BEEN DISCUSSED, SINCE THERE ARE REALLY NO BIG ISSUES PENDING. STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, DEPENDENCIES, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MADRID02803
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780114-0887
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780372/aaaacime.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 57e9f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MADRID 2347
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3342024
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO BACK SPAIN ON CANARIES DURING AFRICAN TRIP
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, OVIP, CU, SP, OAU, (MALMIERCA PEOLI, ISIDORO OCTAVIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/57e9f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014